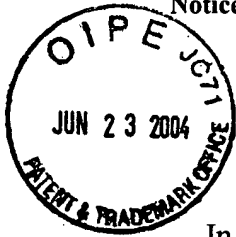


DOCKET NO.: MSFT-0681/183208.01
Application No.: 09/322,457
Notice of Allowance Dated: May 17, 2004

PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: **Stephen Springmeyer and Richard Hasha** Confirmation No.: **8030**
Application No.: **09/322,457** Group Art Unit: **2127**
Filing Date: **May 28, 1999** Examiner: **Kenneth Tang**
For: **Method and System for Property Notification**

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO: EV396264954US
DATE OF DEPOSIT: June 23, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.312
AND INTERVIEW SUMMARY PURSUANT TO MPEP 713.04**

In response to the Notice of Allowance and Examiner's Amendment dated **May 17, 2004**, Applicants respectfully request review, approval, and filing of this amendment and interview summary outlining the contents of the discussion leading up to the Examiner's Amendment.

Amendment Under 37 CFR 312

Applicant would like to remind Examiner that some of the patent applications listed in the "Cross Reference to Related Application" section of the specification have subsequently issued as patents. The USPTO generally updates this information automatically. As a convenience, the following paragraph provides updated information for that section:

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This application is related to U.S. Patent Application No. 60/118,668, entitled "COMMON DISTRIBUTED OBJECT PLATFORM," filed on February 3, 1999; U.S. Patent Application No. 09/322,455, entitled "METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR TRACKING SOFTWARE COMPONENTS," filed on May 28, 1999, **now U.S. Patent No. 6,721,898 issued April 13, 2004**; U.S. Patent Application No. 09/322,962, entitled "METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR TRACKING CLIENTS," filed on May 28, 1999, **now U.S. Patent No. 6,684,246 issued on January 27, 2004**; U.S. Patent Application No. 09/322,643, entitled "AUDIO VISUAL ARCHITECTURE," filed on May 28, 1999; U.S. Patent Application No. 09/322,459, entitled "METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR CONTROLLING ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS," filed on May 28, 1999, **now U.S. Patent No. 6,466,234 issued October 15, 2002**; U. S. Patent Application No. 09/322,207, entitled "METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DISTRIBUTING ART," filed on May 28, 1999, **now U.S. Patent No. 6,670,934 issued on December 30, 2003**; U.S. Patent Application No. 09/322,964, entitled "METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR GENERATING A USER INTERFACE FOR DISTRIBUTED DEVICES," filed on May 28, 1999; and U.S. Patent Application No. 09/322,852, entitled "METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MANAGING SOFTWARE COMPONENTS," filed on May 28, 1999; the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Please update the application prior to issue in accordance with the above provided information.

Notice of Defect in Notice of Allowance

Please note that the Notice of Allowance indicates acceptance of drawings filed on 28 May 1999. The drawings filed on this date were not formal. Formal drawings were submitted on 14 November 2001. Applicant assumes this error in date was due to oversight, and requests that the application, when issued, includes the formal drawings of 14 November 2001.

Interview Summary Under MPEP 713.04

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the extensive interview on May 13, 2004 which led to the Notice of Allowance and Examiner's Amendment dated May 17, 2004. Several agreements were made to modify claims 1 and 7 in accordance with Applicant's and Examiner's input as to how to best describe the various elements of the invention. During the course of the interview, applicant's attorney, Nathaniel Ari Long, and Examiner agreed as to the intended scope of several of the terms used in the Examiner's Amendment.

First, "establishing direct communications" was added to the claims. It was intended that "direct communications" would be construed as any communications that are not relayed by a bus manager component, as that component is described in the specification. Examiner indicated that it was his clear understanding that modern communications are relayed by all manner of intermediate devices and components, and yet can in many cases can be considered to be "direct communications." For example, a telephone call may be relayed first from a telephone in Seattle to a regional station, then to a satellite in orbit, then to another station in, e.g. India, and finally to a particular telephone in India. Such a telephone call is analogous to a "direct communication" in accordance with the claims. The "direct communications" between the components comprises communications known in the art to be peer to peer communications.

Second, the roles of the first and second software components in claim 1 with respect to monitoring were reshuffled somewhat. The changes were made in a manner that remained consistent with the invention. Depending on one's perspective, either component involved in the

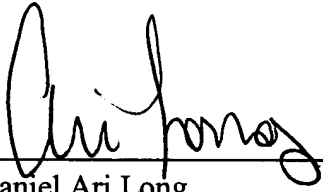
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described method may be described as monitoring the other component. The first component may be sending periodic notifications to the second component. If an error is returned, the first component is thereby informed that the second component, or a property thereof, is down.

On the other hand, if the second component does not receive an expected notification from the first component, then the second component is thereby informed that the first component may be down. Therefore, in claim 1, either component may be said to be “monitoring” by exchanging the term “sending” for the term “receiving,” as was done. Examiner accepted this view of the invention and allowed the claim with the full scope and extent of the language used.

Date: June 23, 2004



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6-25-04

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:
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Commissioner for Patents
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER ACCOMPANYING AMENDMENT AFTER
ALLOWANCE PURSUANT TO 37 CFR § 1.312**

Please make the amendments shown in the attached papers in this application in the:

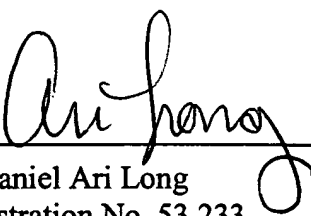
- ☐ abstract.
- ☒ specification.
- ☐ drawings.
- ☐ claims.
- ☒ This Amendment is needed for proper disclosure or protection of the invention and requires no substantial amount of additional work on the part of the PTO.
- ☐ This Amendment affects the disclosure or scope of a claim. The attached Amendment sets forth the reasons why the Amendment is needed, why the proposed amended or new claims require no additional search or examination, why the claims are patentable, and why they were not earlier presented.

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-0681/183208.01

PATENT

- ☒ The issue fee:
- ☒ has not been paid.
- ☐ is paid separately herewith.

Date: June 23, 2004



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